

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 2101

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, CY
SUBJECT: LIMITED TRAINING FOR CYPRUS NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS

REF: (A) 77 NICOSIA 2455, (B) 77 STATE 230669

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH DCINC, USEUCOM, SUBJECT OF US PROVIDING LIMITED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CYPRIOT OFFICERS WAS DISCUSSED. BOTH GENERAL HUYSER AND I FEEL THAT PROVIDING FOREIGN OFFICERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN WITH US OFFICERS IN ESTABLISHED MILITARY COURSES OFFERS AN OUTSTANDING MEANS OF WINNING FRIENDS FOR THE US AND REPRESENTS A MODERATE INVESTMENT WHICH CAN PAY SIGNIFICANT LONG TERM DIVIDENDS.

2. IN REFERENCE A, WE FORWARDED INFORMAL REQUEST BY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND DEFENSE VENIAMIN THAT WE PROVIDE TRAINING AT THE INFANTRY SCHOOL FOR A CYPRIOT OFFICER ON A ONE-TIME BASIS WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE EXTENDED INTO THE FUTURE ON A CONFIDENTIAL

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VERY SMALL SCALE. REF B DENIED THE REQUEST CITING CYPRIOT LACK OF FMS PURCHASE ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REASONS BUT NOTED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. SINCE THE EMBARGO HAS ALL BUT BEEN LIFTED, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED SUFFICIENTLY

TO WARRANT RECONSIDERATION. WITH TURKEY AGAIN RECEIVING BOTH EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ON A LARGE SCALE, THERE CAN HARDLY BE SERIOUS OBJECTION TO PROVIDING INFANTRY TRAINING TO A SINGLE CYPRIOT OFFICER. THE POSITIVE CONSIDERATIONS, BEYOND THE OBVIOUS BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION WITH US OFFICERS AND THE US, ARE THAT WE WILL BE HELPING VENIAMIN TO CYPRIOTIZE THE NATIONAL GUARD, WEANING IT AWAY FROM THE FIRM CONTROL OF THE MAINLAND GREEKS AND WE WILL BE DEMONSTRATING THAT THE US FOLLOWS AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY IN HELPING ALL OF CYPRUS TO FIND ITS WAY, NOT JUST THE TURKS.

4. REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE FOR ATTENDANCE OF ONE CYPRIOT OFFICER (CAPTAIN OR MAJOR) AT THE INFANTRY OFFICER ADVANCED COURSE AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA. DATE OF COURSE TO BE ATTENDED WILL BE COORDINATED WITH DA AND GOC. PAYMENT OF ALL COSTS TO BE MADE BY GOC UNDER PROVISIONS OF FMS REGULATIONS.

5. IN MAKING THIS RECOMMENDATION, WE HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT KYPRIANOU'S PROPOSAL FOR DEMILITARIZATION OF CYPRUS, BUT ARE CONVINCED SUCH TRAINING WOULD REDOUND TO LONG-TERM U.S. BENEFIT, EVEN IF EVENTUAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED THAT CYPRUS BE DEMILITARIZED.
STONE

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